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COUNTRY	Austria		REPORT NO.	
TOPIC	Members and Employees of the Communist Party of Austria not Voting for the Party			
EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED		25X1
DATE OF CONTENT				
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	5 January 1950	
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1. During the last parliamentary elections it appeared that in a number of places, particularly in Lower Austria, the Communist Party of Austria polled less votes than it had registered members. This was particularly noted in ST. POELTEN, where, in early August 1949, the Communist Party of Austria celebrated the registration of its 5000th member, while only a few over 3000 votes were given to the Party in the elections.
2. On the day after the parliamentary elections, Fritz BICKEL, secretary of the Vorarlberg provincial board, said one cannot even be sure that all the nominees of the Communist Party of Austria voted for themselves. As an illustration that Communist fellow travellers failed to vote for the Communist Party, BICKEL said that in his ward on Rieder-gasse in BREGENZ, where only eleven votes were given for the left-wing block, considerably more than eleven persons appeared on the day preceding the election to procure voting papers as conspicuously as possible in order to be able to say they had voted for the Communist Party had the party been successful. Matthias THALER, a Communist functionary in BREGENZ - VORKLOSTER, declared that in his opinion, even confirmed Communists did not vote for the Party. He was now trying to learn which followers of the left-wing block had actually voted for this block.
3. Ludwig SZILAGYI, district secretary of the Communist Party of Austria in FELD-KIRCH, said at the BREGENZ Provincial Board on 28 October 1949, that 236 employees of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in VIENNA were registered for the workers' councils elections. As only 166 of them voted for the left wing block on 23 and 24 October 1949, 70 employees of the VIENNA Central Committee must evidently be non-Communists. The Central Committee is said to have started a check of its employees.

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Next Review Date: 2038

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